



**MINUTES OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

March 2, 2022

Washoe County Senior Center, Reno, Nevada 89512
Game Room
&
Zoom Webinar

<https://zoom.us/j/92347908306?pwd=K2k5UGdYSEVXVGNuRGFPZ3pub2kwQT09>

1. ***Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair- Hawah Ahmad.
2. ***Roll Call** – Hawah Ahmad asked for the roll call; Ryan Crane took the roll. There was a quorum present via in person and through Zoom meeting.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT VIRTUALLY

James Doyle
Ethan Hovest

Pamela Roberts
Hawah Ahmad

ABSENT (EXCUSED*)

*Martha Lavin
*Linda Hardie
*Rick Sorensen
*Mary Ann McCauley
Casey Reed

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Steve McBride
Abby Willrich

Herbert Kaplan (DA)
Ryan Crane

ADVISOR PRESENT

Donna Clontz

ADVISOR (ABSENT)

Dr. Larry Weiss
Connie McMullen
Victoria Edmondson

3. ***Public Comment** –

Nicole Mueller stated she is the vice chair of the Parkinson's Support Center for Northern Nevada, and she would like to provide information to the Board.

Pamela stated she will continue to wear a mask due to health caution and she encourages people to be respectful of people wearing masks.

4. *Member Announcements –

Hawah stated National Consumer Protection Week is coming this March and they will have a webinar on how to avoid scams and fraud. Please share with anyone that is interested.

Also, seniors should be checking their electronic devices because the 3G network for AT&T is shutting down and other companies are going to be doing the same.

Hawah also thanked Simon's Café for their donation to seniors.

Donna stated the Hello Project will be having a neighborhood event at the Reno Housing Authority at Silverada. Vaccines will be available and also fresh fruits and vegetables. The Senior Advisory Boards will be there as well. Also, AARP tax preparation is available at the Reno Senior Center, appointments can be made.

5. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on March 2, 2022 (For Possible Action)

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ethan Hovest and seconded by Pamela Roberts. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on February 2, 2022 (For Possible Action)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Ethan Hovest and seconded by Pamela Roberts. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Update, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding the Friendly Visitor Calls project to selected Washoe County seniors (For Possible Action)

Donna stated there is a flyer about the Friendly Visitor Calls project. The Advisory Board and age friendly volunteers during covid said they would volunteer to make calls to seniors in Washoe County. This expanded to their seniors including seniors in the home delivered meals program. Abby had given a presentation to the Board that provided information on how to handle calls if a senior needed services. The calls are to provide a friendly voice and connection to the outside world. Each caller is part of the Washoe County Volunteer Program and each person goes through a background check. As the pandemic loosened up, some seniors decided the calls were not necessary anymore, but there are enough callers and seniors that want the friendly calls. If people want to be a caller, they can volunteer. Pamela stated the information would be good to distribute to CABs. Abby stated she agrees with Pamela and will look at distributing to the library. Hawah will work with the Board and staff to see how to best recruit for the program.

8. *Report, discussion, and updates on the Advisory Board member's Shared Issues and Goals for Housing, Advocacy, Communication & Information, Data Planning, Transportation, Nutrition Programs, Social & Recreation, Senior Law, Volunteering, Financing, and Social & Health Services

Attachment:

https://www.washoecounty.gov/seniorsrv/senior_services_advisory_board/2022/files/3-2-22%20Joint%20Goals%20Wrksht1.pdf

Hawah stated she would like to talk on how this item works. Donna stated this item is in regards to areas that were identified by the Master Plan in 2014. Hawah asked if this document is helpful and beneficial to keep. Ethan stated this document is helpful to him. Pamela stated this item is beneficial and she does not think it should be taken off. Pam stated she was at a CAB meeting and a senior expressed his frustration with how property taxes are going up, but his income is

limited. Ms. Bonzer from the public stated the County has a program that helps with an exemption for property tax. James Doyle stated people have to qualify for the exemption. Abby stated that information is good to bring to the Board because they can disseminate the information to the public and spread the word. Hawah suggested to remove the sheet and keep the item, Ethan stated he suggests waiting before removing the document (attachment). Pam stated she sees there needs to be a change, but they need to look at how well this worksheet works. Donna stated the purpose of the worksheet is to remind everyone about the active areas that affect seniors in the community; it is updated by Sandra Vasquez and it's updated when there is a joint meeting. Hawah asked if anyone had any information on any of the issues and goals. Ethan stated that he attended a meeting and found out that seniors get a good portion of homeless services.

9. *Report and discussion on senior board members to attend ongoing Washoe County public meetings

Attachment:

https://www.washoecounty.gov/seniorsrv/senior_services_advisory_board/2022/files/3-2-22%20Monthly%20Washoe%20County%20Public%20Meetings%20Chart1.pdf

Donna stated the housing meeting that City of Reno had a lot of information on affordable housing. Also, she attended the RTC meeting and encourages people to attend meetings as well. Hawah stated the Senior Coalition is going to have a meeting on Friday at 8:30am.

10. *Update and discussion on the American Rescue Plan Act (A.R.P.A.) funding process for Washoe County

Hawah stated they met with the County Manager and staff. Hawah asked how the homemaker list is doing; Abby stated since last week, there is a waitlist of about 300 compared to 120 from last year. Pam stated this is really concerning and inquired about looking at volunteers, including looking at churches. Pam asked if doing public comment on this at the BCC meeting would matter; Hawah asked that people try to do public comment at the Legislature as well. Abby stated it is well known on the issue shortage for homemaker. Part of the issue is there are not enough homemakers to provide the service.

11. Discussion and possible recommendations on transportation issues in Washoe County, including recent RTC Washoe route changes that affect the senior rider community and informational trifold (For Possible Action)

Hawah stated they address the issues, but they haven't been provided the trifold.

Donna stated RTC did surveys and it would be good to have information on the surveys in their future meetings.

12. Report, discussion, and possible recommendation regarding Senior Advisory Board member vacancy interest (For Possible Action)

Abby stated there is interest and people interested are there.

VK stated he has been living in Sparks and has worked with City of Sparks and Reno.

Kay Bonzer stated she has lived in Reno for about 30 years and has family in Reno. She is interested in finding out about Boards that help seniors.

Jane Baudelaire lives in Sparks and is coming from the Midwest. She has a strong family background in senior care and is interested in supporting people that are marginalized in the community.

13. *Discussion regarding outreach for future vacancies

Abby stated she reached out to people that applied last year and that's were some applicants came forward. Pam verified where there are openings in each district and inquired if they have checked if alternates are able to move to a district seat. Hawah asked that member's absences be revised to be in compliance with the Bylaws.

14. Report, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding recruiting a new Advisory Board member for District 1, District 2, District 4, and District 5 (For Possible Action)

Pam stated she appreciates the applicants attending.

15. Discussion and possible recommendations for electing and appointing a Vice Chair (For Possible Action)

Hawah asked members present if someone would like to be the vice chair. Pam stated she can serve as a vice chair.

Motion to appoint Pamela Roberts as a Vice Chair was made by Ethan Hovest and seconded by Hawah Ahmad. Motion passed unanimously.

16. *Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee – Donald Abbott

Donald stated they had lunch at the Sparks Senior Center, including Sparks City Council. They have openings and people can apply. Also, the new chair is Andrea Pelto. There will also be a small presentation to the City Council in regards to Age Friendly. Donald also thanks Andrea Pelto for the organization of the tour of the new medical facility.

17. *Update on Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee – Paco Lachoy

Paco stated there will be an article in the Senior Spectrum about the new medical facility. Also, they will not be having a meeting this month; they are concentration on Older American Month. They may do the ice cream social around May 25th. May 22nd will be at the Aces for family and seniors.

18. *Discussion of plans for Older Americans Month 2022 and Stuff-A-Bus 2022

Donna stated she would be glad to work with Ryan on the activities. Stuff-A-Bus is May 19 from 1-6pm at the Sparks Target. Ryan is also doing an explanation email on activities. Pam stated she can reach out to get a free fishing day for seniors.

19. Update, report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding age friendly communities sponsored by AARP throughout the county and cities and possible recommendation regarding Washoe County application to be age friendly (For Possible Action) – Donna Clontz

Hawah asked what they need to do to move on this item. Donna stated they have had presentations on this, and City of Reno applied to be age friendly in 2018 and in 2021 City of Sparks applied to be Age Friendly. Now they want to circle to Washoe County Commission and check if they would like to apply to be age friendly. There is no cost to it unless they want to put funds to it to staff it. Pam suggested to have a presentation on this and then potentially reach out to the County Commissioners.

20. *Advisory Board Members' announcements, reports and updates to include requests for information or topics for future agendas. (No discussion among Advisory Board Members will take place on this item.)

Presentation from Nicole Mueller
Older American Month
Stuff-A-Bus
Alzheimer's Association presentation

21. *Public comment –

Nicole Mueller stated they received their 501c3 and they are working to get to the Parkinson's community.

22. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.

DRAFT